Haribal (1992) has reported Blue Tiger *Tirumala liminiace* and Common Indian Crow *Euploea core* visiting dried plants of *Paracaryum coelestinum*. Subsequently I had also observed *Euploea core* and *Euploea klugii* visiting this plant. *Paracaryum* is an erect branched herb around 1 to 1.5 m high, the stem and branches are red pubescent when young and become glabrous later. The butterflies settled on dried plant and rubbed their proboscis. When disturbed they flew in an area of around 4 m and returned to the same spot.

July 14, 1993 NARESH CHATURVEDI
Bombay Natural History Society, Hornbill House, Dr Salim Ali Chowk, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road, Bombay 400 023.

REFERENCES

AMLADI, S.R. (1975): Danaid butterflies attracted to *Heliotropium indicum* (Boraginaceae), an alkaloid containing plant. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 72(2):* 585-587.

CHATURVEDI, N. & S.M. SATHEESAN (1979): Attraction of Butterflies to *Crotalaria retusa* (Papilionaceae) at Khandala, Western Ghats. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 76:* 534-535.

HARIBAL, MEENA (1992): The butterflies of Sikkim Himalaya and their Natural History. Sikkim Nature Conservation Foundation (SNCF), Gangtok, Sikkim.

MILLER, A.G. & M. MORRIS (1988): Plants of Dhofar, the Southern Region of Oman Traditional Economic and Medicinal Uses published by the Office of the Adviser for Conservation of the Environment, Diwan of Royal Court, Sultanate of Oman, pp. 361, with colour plates.

26. *ONTHOPHAGUS UNIFASCIATUS* F. (COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE: SCRABAEINAE) — A NEW RECORD FOR ANDAMAN ISLANDS

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands situated in the North- Eastern Indian Ocean between 6° and 14°N latitude and 91° and 94°E longitude have not been well surveyed for their dung beetle fauna. The islands characterised by tropical moist forests were peopled by hunter-gatherers till 'modern' man came to these islands in 1858 (in addition to an earlier short interlude between the years 1789-1796) and began clearing prime forests for settlement and for agriculture. Since then only five species of dung beetles, namely *Catharsius molossus* L., *Onthophagus cervus* (F.), *O. orientalis* Har., *Copris spinator* Har. and *Paraphytus andamanus* Arrow, have been recorded from these islands (Arrow 1931). For the first time we are recording the presence of *O. unifasciatus* in South Andaman.

Traps baited with dead snails (*Achatina fulica* Bowdich) and dead rats (*Rattus* sp.) laid in the disturbed secondary forests of Garacharma, South Andaman, as well as light (at night) and dog excrement attracted these beetles. As is to be expected, the beetles were abundant during the monsoon period. In mainland India they were found feeding on cow, sheep and dog excrement as well as the carcasses of crow, frog and the tenebrionid beetle *Platynotus perforatus* Mubrant (Veenakumari 1984).

In South Andaman *O. unifasciatus* was found transporting flat pieces of dog excrement by butting it with its clypeus and forelegs. While this has been noticed with cowdung at Bangalore, India (Veenakumari 1984) this behaviour was most commonly exhibited by *O. tritinctus* in mainland India (Veenakumari and Veeresh 1990).

This is the first record of a coprine from these islands after the publication of Arrow's comprehensive work on the dung beetle fauna of the Indian subcontinent (including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands) in 1931.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Dr A.K. Bandhyopadyay, Director, Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair for encouraging studies on the insect fauna of these islands and to Dr R.B. Madge, British Museum (Natural History) for the identification of the species.

February 8, 1993 K. VEENAKUMARI
PRASHANTH MOHANRAJ
Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair, Andamans 744 103.

References

Arrow, G.J. (1931): The fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma. Coleoptera Lamellicornia III (Coprinae). Taylor and Francis. London. 428 pp.

Veenakumari, K. (1984): Studies on dung beetle communities with special reference to the biology and ethology of some coprine dung beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae). Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis submitted to the Univ. of Agril. Sciences, Bangalore, India.

Veenakumari, K. & G.K. Veeresh (1990): Utilization of dry dung and intraspecific competition in *Onthophagus tritinctus* Boucomont (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae). *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 87:* 319-320.

27. OCCURRENCE OF *AFISSA DUMERILI* (MULS.)(COCCINELLIDAE : COLEOPTERA) ON CUCURBITS

The genus *Epilachna* belonging to sub-family Epilachinae and family Coccinellidae is phytophagous and harmful to many crops. The species of this genus recorded on cucurbits in India are *Epilachna dodecastigma* Muls. (Fletcher 1921), *E. delesserti* Guer. (Venugopal and David 1972), *E. implicata* (Nayar *et al.* 1976). During a survey of insect — pests of cucurbits at Kanpur and its suburbs (Uttar Pradesh), *Afissa dumerili* (Muls.), earlier designated as *Epilachna dumerili* by Dieke (1947) was found to damage summer and rainy season cucurbits. The larvae and adults feed exclusively on leaves, flowers and tender fruits of cucurbits. Its principal cucurbit host plant is wild *Cucumis trigonus* Roxb. which serves as disseminating agent of this species. The crops are required to be resown when the pest occurs in seedling stage. This species has been earlier recorded from Nilgiri Hills, Bombay, Bengal, Assam, Sikkim, the Andaman Islands, Burma and Siam (Kapoor 1950).

We are grateful to the Director, commonwealth Institute of Entomology of London for identification of this insect.

June 8, 1992

R.S. PANDEY
NARBADA PRASAD

Department of Entomology,
C.S. Azad University of Agriculture & Technology,
Kanpur 208 002.

References

Dieke, G.H. (1947): Lady beetles of the genus *Epilachna* (Sens. Lat.) in Asia, Europe and Australia. *Smithson. Misc. Coll. 106 (15):* 1-183.

Fletcher, T.B. (1921): Annotated list of Indian crop pests. *Agric. Res. Inst. Pusa Bull. 100:* 246.

Kapoor, A.P. (1950): The biology and external morphology of the larvae of *Epilachna* (Coleoptera : Coccinellidae). *Bull. ent. Res. 41:* 161-208.

Nayar, K.K., T.N. Ananthakrishnan & B.V. David (1976): General and Applied Entomology. Tata McGraw Publishing Company Limited, New Delhi, 347 pp.

Venugopal, M. S. & B.V. David (1972): A note on the occurrence of Coccinellid beetle, *Epilachna delesserti* Guer. on *Trichosanthes cucumerina* Linn. *Madras Agric. J. 59 (9-10):* 573.

28. A NOTE ON PARHOLASPIDAE KRANTZ, 1960 WITH SUPPLEMENTARY DATA FOR *GAMASHOLASPIS BROWNINGI* (BREGETOVA & KOROLEVA, 1960) FROM INDIA

Parholaspids are close allies of macrochelid mites. Formerly parholaspids were grouped into the subfamily Parholaspinae Evans, 1956 under the family Macrochelidae. Bregetova & Koroleva (1960) erected *Evansolaspis*, a new genus to the subfamily Parholaspinae with *Evansolaspis browningi* as the type species. Krantz (1960) raised Parholaspinae to the status of a family which was later considered as essential by subsequent workers (Marshall 1964, Petrova 1967a). Petrova (1967b) synonymized the genus *Evansolaspis* with *Gamasholaspis* Berlese. Parholaspid mites are little studied in India. They are free-living forms commonly encountered in soil